

Hoffa's Accuser Is in the Center of a Labor Furor in Louisiana

By MARTIN WALDRON

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 5—

While Edward G. Partin, a 43-year-old official of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, testified this week before a Federal grand jury here that he had been offered a "million-dollar bribe" to change his testimony against the union's international president, James R. Hoffa, the following actions were in progress:

¶Twenty-five members of Mr. Partin's teamster Local 5 were suing him for \$100,000, asserting that he had stolen union funds.

¶The United States attorney in New Orleans continued to hold in abeyance a five-year-old indictment charging Mr. Partin with stealing money from his union.

¶A ready-mixed-concrete company was accusing Mr. Partin of conspiring with a Louisiana industrialist and some other concrete concerns to corner the concrete market in the state.

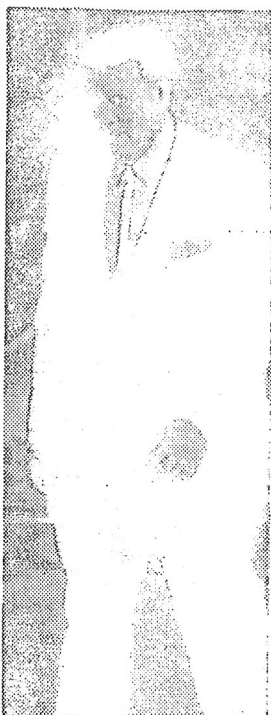
¶Several Louisiana lawyers, who were hired by union members opposing Mr. Partin and by a concrete company, were trying to prove that Mr. Partin had built a \$500,000 automobile race track, which went into operation near Baton Rouge this summer.

¶Construction was shut down in an expanding industrial complex along the Mississippi River because of chaotic labor conditions.

Hoffa's Hall

Local 5 has its headquarters in a long union hall on the outskirts of Baton Rouge. The hall, known as Hoffa's Hall before Hoffa was convicted of jury tampering in Tennessee in 1964, is rented out weekly for professional wrestling.

In an office in the hall, Edward Grady Partin runs a controversial union local that has not paid its dues to the inter-



Associated Press

Edward G. Partin

pany charged \$15 a yard for the concrete, he said.

The next day, teamster members walked off the job, Mr. Williams said.

"Did the teamsters give you any reason when they walked off?" Mr. Williams was asked by one of the Altex lawyers.

"No, sir, nobody knew why," he said. "They said they didn't know."

Mr. Williams said a Gulf employee, who was supervising the job, told him to buy the concrete from Louisiana Ready Mix Company. The Louisiana Ready Mix price was \$19.40 a yard, Mr. Williams testified, and the Gulf employee said Gulf would "pick up" the extra

trolled by the Dunhams.

Mr. Hunt testified that he did not know who owned the race track and added that he had never heard that Mr. Partin did.

"Did Mr. Partin, to your knowledge, make any effort to obtain contributions from industrial concerns by way either of use of equipment, materials or use of labor in connection of this race track?" Mr. Hunt was asked.

"Not to my knowledge," Mr. Hunt said.

Mr. Hunt said that he was not in a position to know if any material had been donated by any company toward construction of the race track. He said that he was not familiar with the procedures used by his construction crews.

Partin Denies Ownership

Last Thursday, while waiting to testify before the Federal grand jury at New Orleans, Mr. Partin said he had no connection with the race track.

In Daytona Beach, Fla., officials of the National Stock Car Automobile Racers said that the Baton Rouge Speedway had applied May 22, 1967, for a sanction, which was granted. NASCAR said the application for the sanction, for the Baton Rouge International Speedway was signed by "Ed Partin."

In answer to the Altex charges, Mr. Partin said there had been a general conspiracy to force him out of a position of authority in the union and to get him to change the testimony that he gave against Hoffa in 1964.

In an article that he wrote for Life magazine in 1964, Mr. Partin said he began to break with Hoffa in 1962 because Hoffa had suggested to him that Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who was then Attorney General, should be assassinated.

In June, 1962, a Federal grand jury in Louisiana indicted Mr. Partin on 26 counts charg-

ers of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in the Baton Rouge area became involved in a dispute over jurisdiction in unloading electrical supplies at construction sites, and both unions set up picket lines.

More than 20 major manufacturers who were building factories along the Mississippi River halted construction. A spokesman for the companies said that they had been forced to pay premiums to keep labor peace, that members of the union had caused work slowdowns and that they were forced to hire more employees than were needed.

Shutdown Still in Effect

The shutdown still was in effect this weekend, but Gov. John J. McKeithen said he 'hoped' that some construction would resume next week.

In July, the Governor called a special session of the Legislature to create a commission to investigate labor and management "racketeering" in Louisiana.

The commission began func-

tioning last week but has not yet held any hearings.

Mr. Partin said the labor shutdown was designed to force him to change his testimony against Hoffa.

The union leader also asserted that he had been offered large sums of money if he would agree to change the testimony that he had given against Hoffa.

A source close to Federal officers who investigated Mr. Partin's assertion reported that the teamster official said he had been offered \$150,000 by a Baton Rouge businessman and \$50,000 by a state judge.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark two weeks ago assigned Michael T. Epstein of Washington as a special attorney to assist the United States District Attorney in New Orleans, Louis C. Lacour, in investigating the bribery claims.

A United States grand jury was convened in New Orleans on last Thursday to hear Mr. Partin. Other witnesses had been summoned to testify about the bribery offers on Aug. 9.

THE NEW
ARNOLD
CONSTABLE

now: "super-dry"



Local 5 has only a small percentage of truck driver members. Mr. Partin described it as a general local and said it had members from many trades, including construction workers, bakers and food handlers. In the recent prosperous years in Baton Rouge, the local has had as many as 1,500 temporary members in addition to its regular members.

In the last 14 years, Mr. Partin has been involved almost continually in controversy. He has been shot twice and knifed once, he said.

Convicted of Burglary

Since leaving home in Woodville, Miss., more than 25 years ago, Mr. Partin has been charged with burglary, rape, manslaughter and kidnapping, among other offenses. However, he has been convicted only of burglary and some other minor offenses, such as reckless driving.

He said that he was given a bad conduct discharge from the Marine Corps after he struck an officer during a fit of temper and that he once was sentenced to a reformatory in Washington, D. C., for breaking into pinball machines.

Since 1962, Mr. Partin has been free on \$50,000 bond on a 26-count Federal indictment charging him with stealing union funds.

In 1964, he testified that he had heard his one-time friend, Hoffa, tell assistants to bribe one or more members of a jury that was trying Hoffa on a charge of accepting a kickback from a Detroit trucking company.

Since that testimony, Federal marshals have been assigned to protect Mr. Partin.

"Ed Partin must have nerves of steel," an opposing lawyer said in Baton Rouge this week. "I don't see how he sleeps at

Ted R. Dunham Jr., to buy Louisiana Ready Mix Company and that the Dunhams in return had agreed to buy cement from Lone Star.

Because of the suit, the Dunhams have declined to discuss the situation, but they and Mr. Partin have issued a general denial of the charge by Altex.

Lawyers for Altex have not yet taken depositions pertaining to what part they assert that Mr. Partin played in the "conspiracy."

Speedway Investigated

The Dunhams were mentioned in another phase of the antitrust suit when lawyers explored the ownership of the Baton Rouge International Speedway, an automobile race track that opened this summer about 15 miles south of Baton Rouge.

The race track was chartered Dec. 5, 1966, by Jerry Sylvester of Ville Platte, La., Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Foster of Baton Rouge and Mrs. Frances Kay Thibodeaux of Baton Rouge.

The charter on file in the Louisiana Secretary of State's office shows that Mrs. Thibodeaux had 60 shares of stock and that the other two organizers had 20 shares each.

At the time, Mrs. Thibodeaux was a secretary at teamster Local 5 and worked in the office of Mr. Partin. Efforts to find information about Mr. Sylvester and Mrs. Foster were unsuccessful.

The race track was built on 67 acres of land leased from Cal Broussard, Inc., on July 15, 1965. A copy of the lease on file in the Federal court at Baton Rouge showed that Mr. Partin had leased the land from Cal Broussard, Inc., and that on July 15, 1966, he assigned his lease to Mrs. Thibodeaux for \$400.

On July 18, 1967, Mrs. Thibodeaux

the funds of said local union on numerous occasions."

They asked for a \$100,000 judgment.

The civil suit followed an unsuccessful effort by an assistant business agent of Local 5, A. G. Klein Jr., and a teamster member, Joseph D. Albin, to get the international union to dismiss Mr. Partin.

Mr. Klein was found crushed to death under a truck in 1962 while this appeal was pending.

Mr. Albin is still pressing the civil suit.

Judge West would not allow the civil suit to come to trial pending the outcome of the criminal indictment brought by the grand jury.

The civil suit was based on much the same allegations as the indictment, and Mr. Partin's lawyers said that he might be giving evidence against himself if he were required to defend himself in the civil suit before being brought to trial on the criminal action.

Accused of Kidnapping

In September, 1962, Mr. Partin was charged with kidnapping in Baton Rouge after he became involved in a dispute while helping a friend gain custody of his children.

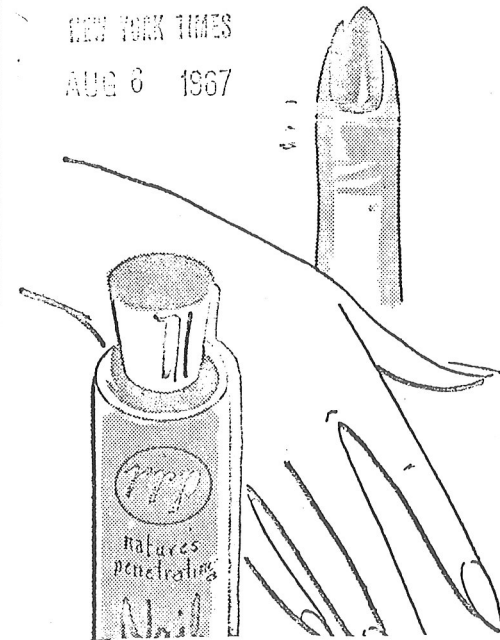
That charge was later dropped, but Mr. Partin was held in jail without bond for several days, since kidnapping in Louisiana is a capital offense. During the time he was in jail without bond, Mr. Partin told a jailer about the alleged threat to assassinate Robert Kennedy.

After the jailer told Federal officers about the conversation, the Justice Department began an investigation. Mr. Partin, in his Life magazine article, said he agreed to work with the Federal officials, who were trying to send Hoffa to jail on a variety of charges.

ever-dry=super-dry gives the under-arm active protection against both moisture and odor, with a unique new formula. 90-day supply, 3.00.

NEW YORK TIMES
AUG 6 1967

NEW YORK TIMES
AUG 6 1967



THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY AUGUST 6, 1967

night with all this going on."

Many observers of the labor scene in Baton Rouge believe that the chaotic labor conditions that have shut down \$482-million worth of new construction in and around the city have resulted from moves by Mr. Partin to consolidate his power in the Louisiana labor market.

Importance of Concrete

Much of the construction along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans depends on a steady supply of ready-mixed concrete.

This spring, the Altex Reddy Mixed Concrete Corporation of Baton Rouge sued Mr. Partin; the Louisiana Ready Mix Company, Inc., and the Lone Star Cement Corporation, plus a number of individuals, asserting that there was a conspiracy to drive Altex out of business.

The suit under Federal anti-trust laws has been pending in a United States District Court in Baton Rouge.

The essence of the Altex case was contained in testimony given by Cleo R. Williams, a construction superintendent for the Raymond Concrete Pile Company of Baton Rouge.

In a deposition taken by Altex lawyers last month, Mr. Williams said that he was in charge of a construction job on a Gulf Oil Corporation project near Baton Rouge in December, 1966.

One day, he testified, he bought 25 yards of concrete from Altex for a test. The com-

deux answered a subpoena from the Federal court but refused to answer questions about the race track.

Seeking the Truth

Drew McKinnis of Baton Rouge, one of the lawyers representing Altex, said he was trying to find out the truth.

Mr. Partin, who was observing the taking of the deposition, broke in to say: "The truth will kill you, Mr. McKinnis."

Bruce L. Hunt, president and owner of the A.A.A. Contracting Company in Baton Rouge, testified in a deposition May 16, 1967, that his company had built the race track under an oral agreement with Mr. Sylvester.

Mr. Hunt was asked what kind of work Mr. Sylvester did. "I don't know," Mr. Hunt said.

"Do you know who he works for?"

"No, I don't."

Mr. Hunt said he had not obtained a credit check or a financial statement on Mr. Sylvester.

At the time of the deposition, Mr. Hunt said that his company had done \$543,769 worth of work on the track but had received no payment.

Photostats of A.A.A. Contracting Company checks showed that \$78,163 had gone to Anderson-Dunham Company and that \$97,477 had gone to the Louisiana Ready Mix Concrete Company for concrete and asphalt.

Both companies are con-

Mr. Partin was released from jail in Baton Rouge, and he went to Nashville, where Hoffa was being tried in October, 1962, on the charge of accepting a kickback from Commercial Carriers, Inc. The jury was unable to agree on a verdict.

Mr. Partin said that during the trial he reported conversations between Hoffa and his associates, and in early 1964, Mr. Partin testified against Hoffa in the trial that resulted in Hoffa's conviction for jury tampering.

Since that time, the Federal Government has held in abeyance the indictment against Mr. Partin.

However, on July 21, 1967, after the Government had not prosecuted the criminal indictment for five years, Judge West agreed to allow the suit by Local 5 members to come to trial. No date has been set.

Injunction Sought

On Aug. 1, 1967, attorneys for the 25 teamsters suing Mr. Partin, asked Judge West to enjoin Mr. Partin and Emile Verbois, a friend of Mr. Partin's in Local 5, from threatening their clients.

The petition said that it had been "suggested" that the union members should withdraw their names from the suit.

"Plaintiffs fear for their lives and the safety of their property," the petition said.

Judge West has not set a date for a hearing on the petition.

Last May, Local 5 and mem-

now: clean and style
your wig the
professional way

first spray on "wig
klean" (6 oz. 1.00) and
brush through, then set
and spray with "wig
spray" (6 oz. 1.00). final-
ly, spray on "wig lustre"
(6 oz. 1.25) to enhance
color and sheen, add
body. complete wig care
kit by posner, 3.25.



Aisle of beauty, s

come in, write, phone MU 5-23

FIFTH AVE. AT 40th • HEMPSTEAD • NEW ROCHE

na

is not

labor
force
mony

as-
sured
he
tes-
even

eral
Mr.
that
he
by
nan
age.
sey
ned
ng-
as-
strict
uis
the

ury
ans
Mr.
ses
ify
on